

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Working Session

February 11, 2008

The meeting was called to order 4:03 PM by Chairman McArdle. Board members present in addition to Chairman McArdle were Steve Clark, Dick Gandt, Dick Carlson and Boyd Jackson. Also staffs present were Town Administrator Virginia Wilder, and Board Secretary Donna Rich.

MASCO ABC Program: Chairman McArdle began by stating that Claire Sheff Kohn, MASCO Superintendent, has responded to the Board's request for information regarding the tuition of the students of the ABC program. Documents included minutes from 1973 and other related documents dating from 1973 through 2005. Selectman Gandt stated a historical account of what has occurred to date:

- In 2006 Selectman Carlson, as a citizen, questioned a MASCO School Committee member regarding the tuition being assessed to the Town of Topsfield for the ABC students.
- January 11, 2008, the Board of Selectmen sent a letter questioning the inclusion of the ABC students in the Topsfield census for the purpose of apportioning MASCO operating costs.
- January 23, 2008, Claire Sheff Kohn, Superintendent of MASCO, responded to the Board: letter, sending information related to the ABC program to the Board.

There was a consensus among the Board that there are two separate issues. One is the validity of ABC students being counted in the Topsfield census; and, the second is if a waiver of tuition should be granted. It was agreed that Chairman McArdle and Selectman Carlson would draft a letter for the Board to review for the February 19, 2008 meeting to be sent as a response to the MASCO Superintendent.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Fire Department's budget in regards to salary and overtime expense. Selectmen Clark noted that he and Finance Committee member, Holger Luther met with Fire Chief and discussed the budget. As a result they were able to reduce the budget by \$16,000.

Chairman McArdle made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Selectmen Clark seconded; so voted 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:43PM.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of \$ 421,257.42 the breakdown is as follows:

Warrant #FY08:

065T	\$ 66,970.42
065S	\$ 201,484.66
066	\$ 152,802.34

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich
Secretary

Approved as amended at the March 3, 2008 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Confidential